

From: ["Max Savishinsky" <max@wpsr.org>](mailto:Max Savishinsky <max@wpsr.org>)  
To: [Region10 <Region10@epa.gov>](mailto:Region10 <Region10@epa.gov>)  
Date: 4/14/2021 4:16:18 PM  
Subject: Comment on the proposed ESD for the Lower Duwamish Waterway Superfund site

---

**As Executive Director of Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility and a concerned citizen, I urge the EPA to NOT reduce their efforts to clean the Duwamish River.** The public health implications by the plan to reduce cleanup efforts in this Superfund site cannot be overstated.

Since colonization by white settlers of the region, the Duwamish River has been devastated by shortsighted industrial practices. For 20 years, the EPA has worked to clean this waterway whose health has an immediate impact on the health of tens of thousands of families in King County. You cannot slow these efforts now.

The risk of exposure to [benzo\(a\)pyrene \(BaP\)](#) remains high. Your science suggesting otherwise is cherry picked to support this move. Only 2 recent studies on BaP found a decrease in cancer risk while an additional 13 studies were either discarded as poorly executed or demonstrated *increased* risk associated with BaP exposure.

Furthermore, the EPA has not meaningfully engaged the Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities who will suffer the most from your plans to reduce cleanup efforts. To scale back the cleanup of the Duwamish River is to continue to poison BIPOC neighborhoods and to do increasingly irreparable harm to the sovereign land of the Duwamish people.

**Again, I urge you: do NOT reduce, diminish, slow, or scale back the Duwamish River cleanup efforts.**

Max

**Max Savishinsky**  
**Executive Director**, Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility  
**Email:** [max@wpsr.org](mailto:max@wpsr.org) | **Phone:** [206.547.2630](tel:206.547.2630)  
**Visit us:** [wpsr.org](http://wpsr.org) | **Join us:** [Become a member](#)  
**Donate:** [Support our work](#) | **Learn more:** [Sign up for emails](#)